

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claim 7, and amend claim 1 below as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A [substantially ceresin-free] lipstick composition comprising:

(a) ~~3-25 mass % of a blend of~~ polyethylene wax having an average molecular weight of 300-700, and

(b) microcrystalline wax; and

[(b)] ~~(c)~~ 0.1-50 mass % of one, two or more liquid oils having one -OH group in the structure,

wherein polyethylene wax and microcrystalline wax are blended in a mass ratio of 6:4 - 9:1, ~~polyethylene wax and the microcrystalline wax are blended so as to comprise 3-25 mass% of the composition, and the composition contains substantially no ceresin.~~

2. (Original) A lipstick composition as defined in claim 1 wherein ingredient (b) is one or more chosen from a group consisting of glyceryl diisostearate, diglyceryl triisostearate, and isostearyl oxystearate.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) A method for retaining the shape of a substantially ceresin-free lipstick composition comprising blending therein:

(a) 3-25 mass % of a blend of [one, two or more] polyethylene [waxes ()] wax having an average molecular weight 300-700[)] and microcrystalline wax; and

(b) 0.1-50 mass % of one, two or more liquid oils having one -OH group in the structure, wherein polyethylene wax and microcrystalline wax are blended in a mass ratio of 6:4 - 9:1.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein (b) is one or more selected from the group consisting of glyceryl diisostearate, diglyceryl triisostearate, and isostearyl oxystearate.

7. (Cancelled)